World class status to stations in Maharashtra

†724. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated any plan to grant world class status to some railway stations;

(b) the total number of stations proposed to be given such status; and

(c) the names of stations in Maharashtra which would be given such status and whether necessary arrangements have been made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have identified 22 railway stations for development as world class stations through Public Private Partnership route by leveraging the real-estate potential at the stations. From the State of Maharashtra, Pune & Carnac Bunder (Mumbai) railway stations are among the 22 stations identified for development as World Class station.

Production of new rail coaches

725. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new rail coaches proposed to be produced will not only be of lightweight but also carry more passengers;

(b) if so details thereof; and

(c) the time frame within which these coaches would be introduced and how far would these be more remunerative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Modern Generation light weight Stainless Steel coach design was acquired under Transfer of Technology with M/s Alstom. Indigenous manufacture of such coaches has already commenced at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala since 2002 and till date about 400 such coaches have already been manufactured and have been inducted in service. Besides being light weight, the average passenger carrying capacity of these types of coaches is higher than the corresponding conventional design coach by about 12% thereby earning extra revenue.

Bids for modernisation of stations

726. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have invited bids for station modernisation;

(b) if so, the details of their modernisation plan; and

(c) what are the details of the railway stations proposed to be modernised on the ECoR system under this project?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Such modernisation works are to include the following:

(a) Improved circulating area

(b) Improved concourse

(c) Better Platform surfaces

(d) Improved waiting halls-with good tollets

(e) Adequate lighting on Platforms and other conspicuous locations at station

(f) Modern design water booths

(g) Improved seating arrangements, etc.

Thirty railway stations have been identified for modernization under modernization scheme on the on the ECOR during 2006-97 and 2007-08 These are:

2006-07—Bhubneshwar, Cuttack, Puri, Brahampur, Bhadrak, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Titlagarh Kesinga, Kantabanji, Vishakhapatnam, Vizianagram, Rayagada, Duvvada & Srikakulam Road railway stations.

2007-08—Khurda Rbad, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Palasa, Balugaon, Dhenkanal, Bargarh Road, Mahasamund, Bagabara Road, Khariar Road, Muniguda, Koraput, Parvathipuram, Simhachalam, Bobbili & Chipurupalli railway stations.

Setting up electric locomotive unit

727. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed 10 set up a new electric locomotive unit in the country;

(b) whether a demand has been made by non-resident Oriyas for location of this unit in the Orissa State as this backward region does not have any rail production unit;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa is way behind to other States in tenns of rail density; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to upgrade its rail density especially keeping in view the fast industrialization of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Approval has been obtained to set up an Electric Locomotive Manufacturing Unit at Madhepura, Bihar at an anticipated cost of 1293.57 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Orissa is ahead of several States and Union Territories in rail density, that is rail route kilometer per 1000 square kilometers of geographical area. Presently, the state of Orissa occupies 20th position in this respect amongst 29 States and 6 Union Territories.

(d) Does not arise.